

DN-421

DEPUTIES' MEETING

Wednesday, 3 August 1955

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PRESENT: Mr. Dulles, General Cabell (part of meeting),
Mr. Wisner, Mr. Amory, Colonel White, Messrs.
Kirkpatrick, [redacted], Sheldon (part of
meeting), Mr. [redacted]

The Director asked Colonel White to brief those present on our current and projected personnel strength. Col. White reported that:

1) The Agency has just about reached its personnel ceiling imposed by the Director;

2) Requests, if approved, for additional people in Fiscal '56 and '57 will increase our strength [redacted] and [redacted] respectively; 25X1

3) While he did not question the requirements for the above-proposed increases, he did need guidance, since DD/S is charged with approving T/O's;

4) In recent hearings on the Hill dealing with both budget and building, the attitude of certain members of the several committees was that CIA had too many people and a reduction should be made.

In connection with the last point, the Director said it was becoming increasingly difficult to justify with the Congress our present strength requirements, let alone an increase. Therefore, he believed that the time had come to reduce our present strength ceiling and/or at least hold the line by:

- a) Dropping certain selected projects;
- b) Reducing political reporting;
- c) Cutting out marginal activities;
- d) Discontinuing [redacted] Training Programs, etc.

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Colonel White noted there are new projects under way which, when fully staffed, will require about [redacted] people. The Director said these projects are most important to CIA, and in fact it might become necessary to reduce other programs to staff them. (NOTE: These projects are

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Mr. Wisner pointed out that the organization of the [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] and other additional activities in the DD/P area left him no alternative but to request an increase in personnel. Mr. [redacted] remarked that as we make use of more [redacted] 25X1 [redacted]

General Cabell noted that as compared to the military CIA is more prone to administer programs and projects from headquarters rather than delegate authority to the field and in this connection the Director said he believed he could justify before the Congress increases in the field whereas additional personnel for headquarters would present a much more difficult problem. General Cabell went on to say that he would recommend that we make a sincere effort to reduce marginal activities; however, as opportunities are presented to carry out our assigned functions even though such opportunities may require an increase in personnel, he believed we should approach such increases from the offensive rather than the defensive. For example, he said he had felt for a long time that each component should have at least up to a 5% increase in overhead for training purposes.

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Mr. Amory pointed out we might get along better with Congress on strength figures if the various Committees could examine CIA at the same time they look at the NSA budget. He noted that the mass of material collected by NSA is no good until properly evaluated.

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Colonel White noted that Personnel now has in the mill requests for [redacted] additional employees and suggested that these requirements be re-examined in order to determine what cuts could be made immediately.

Mr. Dulles said that in our appearances before Congress we always have a basic problem -- that CIA is normally looked upon as an intelligence organization, whereas in fact we do a great many other things which cannot be discussed but which require money and personnel.

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Mr. [redacted] said he had given the personnel problem a great deal of thought, particularly in his capacity as [redacted] and said he had felt for a long time that a number of bodies might be saved by contracting private organizations to do certain programs and projects, particularly research and in the development field (TSS) provided the security problem can be surmounted. The Director said this should be explored but agreed with General Cabell that we could not re-designate Staff employees to a contract status and thereby claim reduction in strength.

The Director summed up by saying we should not approach this problem with a defeatist attitude, however, he did desire that the Deputies re-examine their personnel requirements and furnish him recommendations as to how personnel could be reduced in their respective areas.

Mr. Dulles:

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[Redacted]

b. Asked Mr. Amory to insure that a regular procedure is set up on reporting Soviet atomic tests. DD/I said he had already looked into this and the recent incident in this regard was not the fault of the Nuclear Energy Division of CIA. In this connection the Director also asked DD/I to advise him (DCI) of his responsibility in reporting such tests.

Mr. Wisner:

a. Reported on his meeting yesterday with Deputy Undersecretary Robert Murphy and Assistant Secretary Walter Robertson, State Department, and noted he was preparing a memorandum of this meeting for the DCI. In this connection Mr. Wisner said State at the present time seems quite relaxed about the [Redacted]

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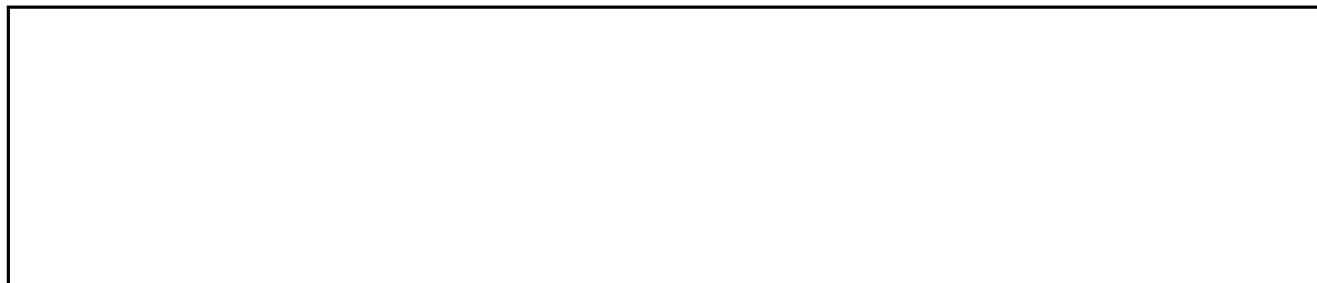
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[Redacted]
however, the Director said Mr. Amory's suggestions should be given consideration.

b. Noted several items the Director might wish to discuss at today's OCB meeting. Mr. [Redacted] in coordination with Mr. [Redacted] undertook to prepare a memorandum of these items for the Director's use at the above-mentioned meeting.

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Mr. Kirkpatrick:

Noted that two people from Bob Kennedy's committee were planning a trip to Europe for the purpose of examining East-West trade activities and said we had received a request that these investigators be allowed to call on [redacted] Mr. Dulles said he felt that this was a State Department problem and asked Mr. Kirkpatrick to so advise Mr. Kennedy.

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J. C.
DULLES

A handwritten signature in cursive ink, appearing to read "J. C. DULLES".